

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PY 40 FUNDING–CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA
NON-PROFIT and OTHER APPLICATIONS #43 - #84
PUBLIC HEARING
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair Martinez; Co-chair Banta; Council member: DeJesus

CITY STAFF: Tyler Fairbairn; Acting Deputy Director
Alana Kabel; Assistant CAO

Co-chair Banta called the public hearings to order at 6:20 pm.

Co-chair announced that there will be a three minute limit for each program representative to do their presentation.

**It was stated that the committee members would ask questions following each presentation – see below:*

The programs were presented in order by Application ID# and Program Name:

43) Kennedy Center – Homes for Individual
Funding Request \$34,900.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$25,000.00

The representative wasn't present to address the committee about this program.

44) Career Resources – Fathers for Life
Funding Request \$15,000.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$8,500.00

Javier Santiago and Jonathan the program facilitator were present. It was stated that this program serves low income individuals and the client's basic needs to successfully gain employment. They provide adult education, job readiness, vocational training and case management. The focus of Fathers for Life is to help young fathers maintain a family. It's a state certified program that has been in operation for a little over fourteen years. They offer three core services that help the participants establish their goals as a father. It was mentioned that when the fathers are separated from their children due to incarceration and when they return and in

the company of their peers; they often recreate themselves to become viable in their child's life. The funds will help enrich the program resources. Question: Co-chair Banta asked where the facility was located? **Response:** the facility is located on Fairfield Avenue. Comment: Co-chair Banta commented that the program offers clinics, clothing etc., he asked about the basic needs portion of the program? **Response:** they also provide transportation and employment recruiters. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if they work with Connecticut Jobs? **Response:** yes.

46) McGivney Center – Facilities Upgrade

Funding Request \$29,700.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$25,000.00

Sara, the representative stated that the funding will be used for a new fire alarm system that is outdated and a security system to provide safety for the youth. They also need new fire detectors and other equipment to include emergency push buttons at the front desk. They also want to upgrade the outdoor security camera, noting that safety is crucial. The facility operates seven days a week and they provide various programs to the youth on the east side. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they rent by the year? **Response:** yes. They don't have a formal agreement, but they have an arrangement to utilize the building. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of estimates they received for the work? **Response:** they only obtained one bid and they were told that they could incorporate the fire alarm system and the other related equipment into the cost.

47) McGivney Center – Youth Program

Funding Request \$15,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$5,100.00

Sara stated that they fulfill a mission to provide stimulating programs for youth. The program has been in operation for twenty-one years on the east side. They provide a safe place for youth to participate in recreational and educational programs such as: after school tutoring, sports enrichment and computer instruction. The funding will be used to support the Program Director's salary. Question: Co-chair Banta asked how many hours per week they operate? **Response:** they operate from 2:30 pm until 7:30 pm for tutoring.

48) Precious Promises – Breakfast Cafe

Funding Request \$15,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$10,000.00

Sara Lewis stated that they operate a soup kitchen located on Stratford Avenue. The funds are needed to feed the homeless. She relayed that since they've been open, they have served over 1,000 breakfasts and they are looking to continue to serve the population. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if they also provide beds or accommodations? **Response:** no. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked where they

were located? **Response:** they are located at 1177 Stratford Avenue. It was noted that they serve every Saturday from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. They also go out in the community a week before to pass out flyers to let people know that they are there.

49)Barnum Museum – Barnum Museum Education

Funding Request \$83,167.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$11,900.00

Kathy Moore relayed that they were hit by a tornado during 2010 and the building was severely damaged. However, the Peoples Bank gallery wasn't harmed and they allowed them to store the museum artifacts there. They eventually had to suspend the educational program and now they are looking to reengage the community. They will work with the McGivney Center to bring students into the museum to learn out of the box. They will also run a summer camp. The funding will be used primarily to reengage with professionals to provide enriching programs for the museum. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked how often the program will run? **Response:** it will run for the entire year, starting during the holidays. They will serve (350) youth and everything is free. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they will provide transportation? **Response:** yes and the youth will also have access to a shuttle. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of students that they will work with? **Response:** they will start with 8,000 students annually that will be from all over Connecticut. Question: Co-chair Banta asked who will pay for the transportation? **Response:** the schools arrange for the transportation. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the price of the ticket? **Response:** general museum fees apply of \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students; 12 years old and under is free.

50)Bridgeport Downtown Special Services – Downtown Open Space

Funding Request \$44,310.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$22,000.00

Mike Moore, Director stated that the project they were requesting the funds is at McLevy Green, noting it's the first time requesting funding. the program involves the business improvement district and special taxing district that is surrounded by the Pequonnock River. It supplements city services to create a warm and welcome downtown business area. They have done numerous projects and expanded the scope of work doing beautification projects such as: installing planters, landscaping and new gardens. And they are invested in an urban planning philosophy to take open space and parks to draw folks to the downtown area. They are also looking to expand Baldwin Plaza – *per a rendering displayed* noting the twenty-seven open spaces downtown. He relayed that they work in conjunction with Steve Hladun, Parks & Recreation and the project is considered a quasi-public entity. There are twenty-seven open spaces downtown and they are looking to begin a campaign. The funding will be for the installation of planters, banners and benches. It was noted that McLevy Green is a central location for activities. It's a public facilities project and they will offer a one-to-one match to the in-kind resources. They feel they can

execute the project within the next six months with a professional team – *a rendering was displayed to show what was done in McLevy Green*. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked about the resource funding? **Response:** DDSD will ask CDBG to match their cash investment. It was stated that the office is located at 938 Broad Street and they have a six person ambassador team that handles the daily maintenance downtown. They work in conjunction with city planning and involved in the Downtown Thursday event and the Farmers Market.

51) Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders – Caribe Youth Leaders

Funding Request \$45,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$17,000.00

John Torres, President acknowledged the parents, kids and youth counselors that were present in support of the organization. He stated that the program was transformed to serve (600) youth, ages 5 to 18; grades 3 through 8. They have a leveraged sports program to instill inspiration and a belief that the possibilities are endless. The youth have delivered great success and he mentioned that 26% of the participants have achieved grades of A's and B's in math, reading and writing. He stated that sessions are held every Saturday at the University of Bridgeport. He noted that many of the youth end up in the honor roll program, noting that the SAT program is in its fifth year and has helped juniors improve their scores and many have enrolled in college. Scholarships are awarded for high school and college. They also expanded their baseball and softball programs at a great enrollment success. He further relayed other aspects of the program, noting that there is a sliding fee scale that is offered to low income families. He urged full funding of the program.

- Brita Rodriguez stated that she was 16 years old and she has been a part of Caribe for six years. She is also part of the youth leadership council; plays baseball and basketball. The program focuses on education and striving for better and excellence.

Question: Council member DeJesus asked how and why they expanded the baseball program? **Response:** Park City Little League folded and they were asked to take over to play at the GE field; so they recruited for youth and found that there was a lot of interest. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of youth that participate? **Response:** they expect to exceed (400) youth this year.

52) Ralphola Taylor – Youth and Family Resources/Night Recreation Program

Funding Request \$79,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$8,500.00

Ms. Baptiste, the representative stated that the funding will help continue the services provided at the center, noting that it's the only center located on the east end that provides an after school program and teen achievement for high school age students. The Night Program runs from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm Monday through Friday and from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday. It was mentioned that there is a lot of

crime on the east end and the youth look at the program as a safe haven off of the street. They also offer gang prevention and many of the youth are the first in their family to attend college and they offer college assistance. Some of the other programs are Tai Kwon Do and they have a community garden to teach the youth and parents how to eat healthy. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of kids they see on a daily basis? **Response:** they see approximately ninety (90) youth and their other programs see between twenty (20) and fifty (50) youth. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of staff they have? **Response:** they have three full time staff members. It was noted that the YMCA also volunteers their time to the program. It was further mentioned that they are also looking to renovate the kitchen with the funding. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of youth they serve weekly? **Response:** they serve over 2,000 yearly. It was noted that the YMCA donates \$120k per year to the program and fundraising is done by Ralphola Taylor Center.

53) Ralphola Taylor Youth and Family Resources/Renovations

Funding Request \$59,470.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$30,000.00

Funding will be used for much needed renovations to the kitchen and multi-purpose room. The ventilation systems and floors also need to be renovated – see *above*.

54) ABCD – St. Stephen's Food Pantry

Funding Request \$10,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

Carol Reid the representative stated that they serve low income individuals, the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. It was noted that people can get units of food if they have access to cook it or carry it out to eat. It was relayed that the food pantry provides meals to those who don't have enough food until the end of the month.

55) ABCD – Energy Assistance

Funding Request \$75,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$25,000.00

Denise Hanks stated that they are funded through the State of Connecticut and LIHeap (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). The funding will be used for Bridgeport residents who have received a shut off notice and for deliverable clients. They also assist with secondary heating sources. They have guidelines that if a person's service is turned off, they will give the funds directly to the vendor to get the service turned on. They have to go through an assessment intake process to qualify and case management. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if there is a cap on the amount they provide? **Response:** it depends on the household and how much the bill is, they typically allow between \$200.00 and \$400.00 per household.

56) ABCD – Emergency Rental Assistance
Funding Request \$75,000.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$25,000.00

Carol Reid stated that this program is for individuals who are homeless and need the first month's rent or are about to be evicted and the funds can prevent that. There is a cap of \$500.00 to help and whatever is left over can be worked out with the landlord and the participant has to sign off to work out the arrangement. Question: Co-chair Banta asked how they get clients? **Response:** they receive referrals and walk-ins.

57) ABCD – The Mary & Eliza Freeman Center
Funding Request \$12,447.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$30,000.00

Carol Reid stated that these are the oldest homes built by an African-American in Connecticut; located at 354-360 Main Street on the south end. They are listed on the historic registry and the funds will be used to complete the restoration of the exterior. They previously began the work with CDBG funds and they also received grants from private organizations. They plan to do interior and exterior improvements. *It was noted that the catalogue distributed contained artifacts that have been dug up on the property.* Question: Council member DeJesus asked if they participated with the Downtown Special District? **Response:** she wasn't sure about that and she didn't think so. It was noted that the restoration process began during July 2012. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked who the homes will be used for? **Response:** it will be used for public visitation as a museum.

58) Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises –Green Business Hub
Funding Request \$118,750.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

Adrien Well and acknowledged other people involved with the program that were present: the comptroller, administrative support, IT services, crew leader for lead abatement and the operations director for the mattress recycling factory and the book recycling for the libraries. Marilyn Andrasick relayed that there were two applications submitted, noting that one of them is under Public Facilities. She explained that they need to retrofit the building, because they moved out of the old space and they are currently working out of the mattress recycling building. She further explained that last year the city had a problem with the contractor, so they had the work done out of their own budget at a cost of \$10,016 and they were asking to include that amount in the funding request. She stated that the Green Business Hub contains all the components to become current with the B-Green Initiative. And they need to really finish the space so they can properly operate. She highlighted

that \$4.3 million will be proved in new earnings to low income Bridgeport residents and \$2 million will be invested in local neighborhoods and \$2.5 million income to businesses. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of people that they currently employ in the mattress recycling program? **Response:** they only have four (4) employees in the mattress recycling program. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they make any money from the mattress recycling program? **Response:** no. It was noted that they also have a book and paper recycling program. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked who owned the building? **Response:** no, they rent the building. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they receive help from other foundations? **Response:** yes, they have received funds and/or equipment from other foundations. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of clients they currently have? **Response:** they have twenty-five (25) clients for the mattress and book recycling factories.

59) Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises –Green Business Hub

Funding Request \$84,732.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$25,000.00

The funds requested are needed to continue the program and build capacity. Marilyn referred to the handout to review what they're projecting, noting that there will be one-hundred jobs created over five years in the south end of Bridgeport, which will mean that \$2 million will get pumped into the struggling neighborhood strips – see *above for additional details*.

60) Center for Family Justice – Generator

Funding Request - \$22,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$10,000.00

Shanika Walker stated the funds will be used to provide a safe house for domestic violence victims in the Bridgeport area. The residents normally stay up to six months due to their lack of employment. They have an opportunity to address challenges associated with domestic violence. They opened a 3-family house that was donated and they plan to move in two families soon. The goal is to provide the family a safe place to save money to become independent. The request is to assist families with utilities, transportation, clothing and other basic needs. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked about the staff? **Response:** they have thirty-five (35) full time staff and twenty-five (25) part-time staff. The agency provides counseling, case management and other vital services. The safe house provides shelter for those fleeing domestic violence situations and they receive one-on-one case management and learn self-sufficiency. They are staffed 24-hours and if the facility loses power, the facility won't be safe and able to operate properly. So the funding will be used for a new generator to house the families.

61) Center for Family Justice – Transition Living (DV)

Funding Request - \$10,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

Funding for this program was outlined in program #60 – *see details above*.

62) Bridgeport Housing Authority (BHA) – Marina Village

Funding Request \$ 20,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$5,950.00

The representative wasn't present to speak about this application.

63) Mission of Peace – MOP Foreclosure Prevention

Funding Request - \$78,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$6,375.00

The representative wasn't present to speak about this application.

64) Time for Change – Time for a Change

Funding Request \$50,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

Lou Holiday, Senior Staff Program Supervisor stated that this program is a four to six month male faith based substance abuse alcohol and drug rehabilitation center with twenty-four beds located on the west end at 880 Hancock Avenue. This is the first year they were requesting funds, noting that they are a 501-C non-profit agency. The program consists of all Christian males that attend a drug and alcohol facility that was established during 2011. They help reduce the rate of recidivism, help create stronger families and increase self-worth. They serve 98% adult men from the Bridgeport area and teens with their parental consent. They provide drug awareness and most of the staff is volunteer. The duration of the program for teen is 17-months where they attend the Teen Challenge Program located in Pennsylvania. The adult males attend the program for four to six months in Bridgeport where they teach them job skills and training.

Lou Holiday stated that he is a product of the program has been clean from drugs for a year. He is currently studying to become a drug counselor. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of males that were housed at the facility? **Response:** there are twenty-two (22) males. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if they were receiving assistance from any other organizations? **Response:** no; they aren't set up for Husky benefits and they survive solely on what they receive from Stop & Shop and Wal-mart and the men go out to do odd jobs to help sustain the facility. They are also looking to run a sober house across the street. Question: Co-chair Banta asked what the time limit was to stay at the facility? **Response:** they try to stick to a four to six month duration and they adhere to a schedule from 6:30 am to 10:00 pm. It was

noted that each individual grows at a different rate and they try to provide an atmosphere where it is a right fit. Question: Council member DeJesus asked if they have been in existence for three years? **Response:** yes and they are affiliated with Hosanna Ministries. Question: Council member DeJesus asked what the capacity was percentage wise? **Response:** they are at almost full capacity and the turn over rate is approximately 25%. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked who runs the program? **Response:** Mr. Holliday responded that he runs the program and Jeffrey Reynolds oversees the bills.

65) Time for Change – Time for a Change Induction Center

Funding Request \$50,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

Lou Holliday stated that there are only two homeless shelters in Bridgeport and every bed is filled; so they were asking for ESG funding for bedding.

Mr. Crenshaw shared that he came to Bridgeport two years ago and he found himself homeless. He then met Mr. Holliday and he offered him a place to stay and he has been there for six months. He mentioned that he is currently the Intake Specialist, noting that it's a warming feeling to help others in need. He urged help because it's very much needed.

66) Baldwin Holding Inc. – Streetscape and Infrastructure

Funding Request \$500,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

The representative wasn't present to speak about this application.

Note: the representative combined and presented applications #67, #68 and #69 together:

67) UConn Cooperative – UConn CES 4-H Garden Club

Funding Request \$21,526.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

68) UConn Cooperative – UConn CES 4-H Garden Club (PF) at Barnum School

Funding Request \$17,550.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

69) UConn Cooperative – UConn CES 4-H Garden Club at Curiale School

Funding Request \$16,575.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$5,100.00

Veronica Swain the representative stated that Barnum School raised 2,000 lbs in vegetables. Families learn how to sort and prepare vegetables and the kids love to

put kale in smoothies. She mentioned the hydroponics program and she stated that they also do community service. They also learn how animal farming impacts the ego-system. Their mission is to make the kids think about their education and they plan to show them what hydroponics can do. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if the parents are involved? **Response:** yes, they are invited on field trips and they will be involved in the nutrition program activities. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they are willing to work with other groups that have community gardens in Bridgeport? **Response:** yes and they have been in talks about doing a community garden at Curiale School. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of days they visit the schools? **Response:** they usually visit the schools from Monday through Thursday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Note: the representative combined and presented applications #70, #71, #72, #73 and #74 together:

70) Neighborhood Studios – Parking Lot & Fence Replacement
Funding Request \$25,000.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$20,000.00

71) Neighborhood Studios – Window Replacement
Funding Request \$50,000.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$40,000.00

72) Neighborhood Studios – Saturday Studios
Funding Request \$7,530.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$5,000.00

73) Neighborhood Studios – Literacy and Multipurpose
Funding Request \$15,000.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$7,500.00

74) Conservatory Prevention
Funding Request - \$5,480.00
Citizen's Union Recommendation \$5,000.00

Frank Derico spoke about the Saturday Studios program. He explained that they found increased literacy skills through artwork, writing poems and creating their own play. They are looking to expand the program and the funds will allow them to go from fifteen weeks to twenty-five weeks. There is one adult for every five or six youth and the parents like the program and have seen growth in their child.

They brought in \$625,000 in federal grants to renovate the building and update the heating system. They would also like to renovate the room into a multi-cultural reading room and it will also be used for theater space.

Frank Derico stated the funding requests are for facilities improvements that will improve energy efficiency. They are located in a building that was formerly a catholic school and they put \$620k into the building when they moved in. The funds will also be used to improve the façade, parking lot and fence that are all in disrepair. They will also install an outdoor activity facility and they will create a reading room that will support the arts/literacy program. He stated that thirty-five kids have showed gains in their literacy skills and they came up with their own research on the topic of dinosaurs and produced a play based on that research. They also need the funds to repave a floor that had water damage.

He went on to say that 95% of the population is from Bridgeport and they have a large gym. He referred back to updating the reading room that will be used as a resource for more people to come in and enjoy. He explained that the Saturday Studios is a long running program for children and adults with special needs that began during 1995. It's a hands on program that they integrate with literacy that makes it a great game for the students, who are unaware that it's really an educational component. He noted that the literature is provided in English and bi-lingual and the kids are encouraged to come up with their own play. They provide transportation and a snack. He mentioned that the kids tend to be isolated when they have special needs. They also prepare the kids for college and he relayed a success story of one of the participants that has appeared on Broadway and another who plays drums for a popular band; as well as many others that have achieved great things. He further relayed stories of other students that have overcome obstacles and succeeded. Question: Co-chair Banta asked how they advertise the programs? **Response:** they distribute city booklets and an activity guide that the Lighthouse Program distributes yearly. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they also work within the school system? **Response:** they go to Waltersville School and Marin School where they teach violin and dance instruction. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if the landlord will be able to help with the parking lot repairs? **Response:** the landlord has helped by slightly reducing the rent. Question: Co-chair Banta asked what was the cost of the program? **Response:** there is a \$25.00 registration fee for the Saturday Studios program.

75) St. Johns Family Center – Homeless Prevention

Funding Request - \$10,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$5,545.00

Father Hahmeman, priest at St. John's Church stated that they are the second oldest congregation in Bridgeport and they have long and deep roots with the city. Their mission is to serve at risk families in the area and all the programs are free. They have one part-time program director and they rely on volunteers. The program is an collaborative effort with other agencies in the city. They served 31,922 persons in the food pantry and (350) families. And \$19,000 was given out for rent and utility assistance, noting that's what the funding will be used for.

76) Groundwork Bridgeport – Mayors Conservation Corp

Funding Request - \$64,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$28,900.00

Jack Doyle the representative stated that the grant was a combination grant to support the parks master plan that consists of Park City Sweep that works across the city to beautify neighborhoods. They have (250) volunteers and the youth develop different activities across the city. They currently have ten (10) trained men. It was stated that they aren't asking for any more money than they received in the last seven years. And they are asking to fund ten (10) youth this year.

77) United Cerebral Palsy – Mantano/Skyward

Funding Request - \$73,500.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

Susan Pizutti stated that they are located at 2326 East Main Street near Huntington Turnpike. They own the building and provide occupational health, social and vocational assessment and testing. They provide services to seventy-seven (77) individuals. The building is old and they need a roof and driveway that is in disrepair and causes people to trip. They will provide twenty scholarships per year. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of staff? **Response:** they have approximately 47 staff persons that consist of a speech therapist and the clinical staff volunteers their time. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if she received any bids for the work? **Response:** they received three quotes and the funding requested is the exact amount of the estimates they received. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of patients they serviced last year? **Response:** they served approximately one-hundred fifty (150) individuals and they are currently serving seventy-seven individuals. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if the Board of Education has taken any interest in the program? **Response:** yes.

78) Church of Blessed Sacrament – Kitchen Renovation

Funding Request - \$55,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$20,000.00

Karen Soares Robinson, Director of Religious Education stated it's a community based church located at 275 Union Avenue on the east end. They do a lot of outreach and they have a food pantry. They serve the east end and the east side of Bridgeport and they are looking to upgrade and renovate the kitchen facilities for community events they host. They sponsor holiday parties and they have a food pantry, clothes closet and community garden that is serviced year round. They have provided \$30,000 worth of vegetables and they gave out 1,200 turkeys during the holiday. They are looking to enhance the program to do more and provide meals and cooking classes for seniors that live in the building across the street. The current facility is outdated and not up to code and they would like it to be fully functional to provide dinners for seniors. Their doors are always open to everyone. Question: Co-

chair Banta asked the number of people that the dining room holds? **Response:** it can accommodate up to (350) people.

79) VIP – VIP College Prep

Funding Request - \$25,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$8,500.00

Theresa Wilson, Vice President stated that the program has provided college tours for students in the Bridgeport high schools for the last thirteen years. They meet every Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm and they have outgrown the space where they meet. The college tours are held during November and December and there is a larger tour during April – *she distributed the itinerary that outlined the tours for 2013 and a draft of the upcoming tours*. The request is to assist with the buses, noting that CDBG funding has been an enormous help in the past, because it's important to take students out of their environment to show them they can excel and succeed. She relayed that last night; they had Yale University doctorate students speak to the teens about issues that they deal with as teenagers. She commented the importance of the youth getting on the bus with their peers to visit the colleges.

Keenan Fletcher, a junior at Bullard Havens School expressed that he has been involved with the program for one year. He expressed that Ms. Wilson has really guided him in the right direction and he has visited a few different colleges. The program teaches life lessons and how to succeed to become a better student.

Comment: Co-chair Banta commented that Ms. Wilson has done a fabulous job with the students. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked how often they meet with the youth per week? **Response:** they meet on Wednesday night from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, noting that they have outgrown the current space. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of youth that participate in the program? **Response:** they have over (300) youth participating.

80) St. Mark's Daycare – Interior Renovation

Funding Request - \$53,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$25,000.00

Frankie White, Executive Director stated they are asking for funding to upgrade the HVAC system in the building that is approximately twenty years old and deteriorating. They need to put in the new system to serve between 100-150 children per year. They are looking to install baseboard heat for better efficiency. And they are also looking to create office space. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they paid rent in the building? **Response:** yes, they currently lease the property. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they pay utilities? **Response:** yes. It was stated that they are a 501-c organization and they pay everything out of their budget. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if the funding will also go towards paying staff?

Response: no, the funds will be strictly used for the building renovations and improvements.

81) Access Educational – BPT Access NSBE

Funding Request - \$10,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$

Gwen Brantley stated that they also receive funds from fundraisers and the parents pay a portion for the trips. They took twenty (20) students to Nashville, TN where the youth competed in a NASCAR (race car division) competition and placed third, which was a great achievement considering it was the first time competing. They are looking to expand the program and serve thirty (30) high school and middle school youth.

82) Young Life Inc. – Young Life O BPT

Funding Request - \$32,559.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$

Barnabus Duberry stated that the program has been in existence and reaching people in Bridgeport since 2008. They work with approximately (300) youth in Bridgeport. He mentioned that he works in the program and they serve approximately two-hundred (200) youth. They deal with varied topics, such as; sex, love and relationships. He noted that the highlight of the program is on Friday night where they provide music, skits, games and talk about life.

Tanya a 7th grader expressed that she always has fun and receives mentoring. She added that they have a meal and the staff is really nice.

Ben Foster said that he attends Kolbe High School. He expressed that it's a good program to come to after playing sports. He goes there to talk, relax and hang out with his friends.

Mr. Duberry stated that the staff steps into the youth's life to teach them to become responsible adults. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of youth that participate? **Response:** they serve up to fifty (50) youth, the number varies but on average they see 25 to 30 youth weekly. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked where they meet? **Response:** they meet at a church located at 1475 Noble Avenue. Question: Co-chair Banta asked what the funds will be used for? **Response:** the funds will be used to take trips and experience things that the youth wouldn't normally get a chance to see. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of youth that have gone onto college? **Response:** at least twenty youth have attended college since 2008 and currently they have one youth attending Howard University. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if the youth are primarily from the neighborhood? **Response:** yes, as well from all over the city.

83) Way Outreach Ministry – Kingdom Teens Afterschool

Funding Request - \$15,000.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0

The representative for this program wasn't present to speak about the program.

84) Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH)

Funding Request - \$30,194.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$

Brian Proccapriare stated he was there to request funding for data collection development. They received funding in the past and he thanked the committee for the funding. He expressed that their mission is to end all forms of homelessness and they work with providers that offer services to the homeless population and identify gaps in resources. They have a community impact team and they work on the ground to connect persons with the provider they need help with. They provide local and state level advocacy and the request is for the managing of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that is a software package that contains data of people that enter homelessness. The system tracks demographic and other information and it must be compliant with the regulatory standard. He stated they need the funding to continue to provide the service to bring recipients in to train them on how to store the information that they provide. Or they will sub-contract to compile the reports that are mandated by HUD – *she noted that information can be found on the website at www.NutmegLLC.org* Question: Co-chair Banta asked where they were located? **Response:** they have an office in Hartford and the Operations Officer is located in Fairfield.

Note: this program was scheduled to be presented on April 2, 2014.

9) Refocus Outreach Ministry

Funding Request - \$90,385.00

Citizen's Union Recommendation \$70,460.00

The representative stated that they were requesting HOPWA funds to provide permanent housing for six (6) single individuals with HIV/AIDS. The population served are low income and they provide assistance for those who need education, transportation and counseling. The funding will cover facility costs for rent, personnel and administrative as – *per the following breakdown:* \$49,016 for facility cost; \$35,400 for supportive services and \$5,969 for administrative. They have two supportive housing apartments for displaced homeless persons and the apartments are shared by three individuals. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of people they serve? **Response:** they serve six (6) individuals.

ADJOURNED

**** CO-CHAIR BANTA MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER DeJESUS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public hearings adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services